The American Aerosol Industry

History:

The idea of using compressed gas to atomize droplets of liquid in the air was developed in 1924, but the first consumer aerosol package came into use during World War II. Canisters filled with insecticide and propellants were used to protect U.S. servicemen from insects carrying diseases such as malaria. After the war, the idea was successfully adapted to a wide range of consumer and commercial products.

When Drs. F. Sherwood Rowland and Mario Molina proposed a theory in 1974 that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) caused stratospheric ozone depletion, manufacturers and distributors of consumer aerosol products were quick to respond. Recognizing that a large majority of aerosol cans used CFC propellants, corporations took on the responsibility for finding alternatives.

Long before the Montreal Protocol was signed in 1987, the consumer aerosol products industry had already eliminated CFCs from U.S. aerosol products.

General Aerosol Facts:

- Aerosol products made and sold in the United States do not contain CFCs, with the exception of medical inhalers.
- Asthma inhalers will be CFC-free once there are sufficient commercially available alternatives.
- Consumer aerosol products produced and sold in the U.S. have not contained ozone-depleting chemicals since 1978.
- Many, but not all consumer aerosol products display the “NO CFCS’” logo.
- Manufacturers often choose to not put the “NO CFCs” label on their product for aesthetic reasons.
- Aerosols do contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which can contribute to lower level ozone. Lower level ozone is a major component of smog. However, all consumer products only account for less than 5% of

man-made VOCs in the lower atmosphere and aerosol products account for only a small portion of that percent. Natural VOC emissions from biogenic sources account for one half of all VOCs in the lower atmosphere. Numerous studies have shown that refraining from using aerosols will have no impact on air quality.

Aerosol cans are *recyclable!*:

- Aerosol containers are mostly made of steel or aluminum and are easy to recycle when empty.
- Consumers do not need to separate steel and aluminum cans when they recycle. The separation process is performed at the recycling plant.
- Citizens can find where their closest steel can recycling center is located by visiting **www.earth911.org**.

Unique Benefits of Aerosol Packaging:

Less Waste = Better for the Environment
Aerosol cans are hermetically sealed (airtight), which means that the products inside have an extremely long shelf life.

Cost-Effective
Aerosol containers control particle size, the spray pattern, the volume dispensed per second and the concentration of spray for maximum effectiveness.

Safe
Hermetically sealed prevents leaks and spills. In addition, aerosol cans are tamper-resistant and tamper evident.

Clean and Sanitary
Aerosol products can be applied without contact, protecting users from mess, germs and, in case of burn and lacerations, with a minimum of pain. Family members can hygienically share aerosol personal care products. Hermetically sealed also prevents product contamination.

Efficient and Convenient
Aerosol cans are designed to deliver the right amount of product exactly where it is needed. Using an aerosol package reduces waste and spillage.

Resources:

For more information, please visit:
www.aboutaerosols.com
www.nocfcs.org

“No CFCS” Logo:

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